Dr. Tobias Speaks For Closer Ties

Atlanta Daily World
3-21-46

ATLANTIC CITY — (ANP) — A recommendation to abandon all racial bars in religious, social and athletic activities was adopted here last week by the Young Men's Christian associations of North America at the last session of the 45th international convention. The recommendation, which follows closely the recent stand against bias taken by the YWCA, affirms a resolution taken in 1931 for an interracial policy, and calls upon local associations to follow it.

The recommendation, proposed to the convention by Harper Sibley, of Rochester, N. Y. said it was noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been made in racial relations within the Y M C A during the war years, and suggested complete integration of all races as consistent with Christian values, and indispensible to a new age. It read in part:

SPIRIT OF LIVING GOD

"Peace, freedom, and abundance cannot ultimately be achieved through force, but by the spiritual resources of intelligence and goodwill; not by might nor power military or economic, but by the spirit of the living God expressed thru the lives of men can peace come to the earth."

3-21-46

The new stand by the YMCA adhered closely to Dr. Channing H. Tobias' plea to the convention for awareness of the past year's developments which have made former plans and old systems obsolete, and his suggestion that religion and Christian charity as the only panacea for the world's ills.

Dr. Tobias, senior secretary, colored department, national council YMCA for 23 years, keynoted the convention with his talk "The Religious Imperative in the Postwar World." He said:

FAITH RE-AWAKENING

"There must be a re-awakening of faith in the sacredness of human personality as taught by Jesus of Nazareth before there can be mutual trust between men and nations. And without mutual trust, the most cleverly devised treaties and similar instruments for assuring international peace will fail of realization of their objectives." Dr. Tobias spoke for closer family unity and for closer world family unity.

Dr. Channing Tobias Quits YMCA Post

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK — Dr. Channing H. Tobias, retiring senior secretary of the National YMCA Department of Interracial Services will be honored at a testimonial dinner at the Roosevelt Hotel, Thursday, April 18.

Dr. Tobias is retiring from his work with the YMCA May 1 to become director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund which sponsors work in Negro education and race relations in the United States and Africa and Negro housing in New York City.

The affair is being sponsored by the New York Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare of which Dr. Tobias is co-chairman with Mrs. John Hammond Jr.

3-21-46

$15,000 for Harlem Y. M. C. A.

New York Amsterdam News
3-23-46

The Harlem branch of the Y. M. C. A., announced yesterday through Channing H. Tobias, senior secretary for Negro work in the national office, the receipt of two donations totaling $15,000. Marshall Field gave $5,000, and the New York Foundation $10,000. The gifts will be applied to the drive for $100,000 sought for the renovation and re-equipment of the old branch building, located at 181 West 135th Street.

45th Convention Urged To Practice Its Preachings

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill
Sat 3-23-46

2,000 Delegates Back Resolution Against Discrimination

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—The Young Men's Christian Association of North America promises to eliminate racial discrimination within its ranks.

This pledge was made by approximately 2,000 delegates attending the 45th international convention which convened here last week.

In a resolution calling on all local YMCA organizations in the United States and Canada to dedicate themselves to the task ahead, the delegates urged "all men, without regard to racial or national origin, share justly and equally, according to merit, in our rich, social, economic, cultural, and political heritage."

Urges Practice Of Ideals

The committee on recommendations, in presenting the resolution, said it had observed with satisfaction the upward trend in interracial relations within the YMCA since 1931, when a racial equality resolution was adopted at the 43rd International convention.

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The Rev. R. M. Jones, Harmony Village, Va., convention speaker, declared the organization has been challenged with the demand "to get our practice in line with our preaching."

He said in the YMCA and throughout the whole domain of Christian, "we have done a most commendable job of putting into beautiful words and phrases our creeds and our beliefs.

Christianity In U. S. Indicted

"But what of our practices?" the minister asked. "Has our race relations been such that we could point to the fact proudly and boldly that we seek to prove that in Christ there is no East nor West and that in Christ all men are brothers?"

The Rev. Jones told the convention that a terrible indictment was made against Christian practices in America by a young woman attending the World Youth Conference in England when she said:

"Christians come with a philosophy, others come with a program."

The opening address of the convention was delivered by Dr. Channing H. Tobias of New York City, senior secretary for 23 years of the colored department, National Council of the American YMCA.

YMCA Endorses Unbiased Setup

An American
Baltimore, Md

By BOB QUEEN
AFRO Staff Correspondent

ATLANTIC CITY — Sounding the keynote of world interracial fellowship, the 45th International Convention of YMCA's ended here Sunday, with 2,000 delegates resolving to further implement a 1931 recommendation that the Y program be activated without discrimination.

The recommendation, made 15 years ago by the 43rd International Convention, and endorsed this year, read:

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"That we go on record as urging all associations to take full steps toward making possible full participation in the program without discrimination as to race, color or nationality."

World Brotherhood

Another resolution included the statement that "a brotherhood of men throughout the world across racial and religious barriers must become a reality."

Channing H. Tobias, senior secretary of the colored department, National Council YMCA, who made the opening address on Friday, told the audience that "this is the hour when we dare not think in sectional, provincial, or even National terms."

Tobias Applauded

Receiving intermittent applause from the delegates in Convention Hall, who were present from all sections of the United States, Canada and other parts of the world, he also stated:

"This is the hour to proclaim that it is not a theory, but a fact borne out of our history, that men of all nations and races respond to respect."

Mr. Tobias stated that the YMCA organization, in spite of its depleted membership, held together during the war in face of the social ills that accompany war conditions.

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Virginia Pastor Speaks

Also speaking before the assemblage was the Rev. Russell M. Jones of Harmony Village, Va., pastor of Grafton Baptist Church and vice chairman of the National Student Council.

The Rev. Mr. Jones, stressing the theme of the conference, "The World in Which We Live," asked in his speech:

"Have our race relations been such that we could point to the fact proudly and boldly that we seek to prove that in Christ there is no east or west and that in Him all men are brothers?"

He told of his visit to London last year as a delegate to the World Youth Conference and pleaded that Christian groups such as the YMCA work along with the aims of that organization in forming a pattern for world peace.

Y Strong in Philippines

Brig. Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, resident commissioner of the Philippines and hero of Bataan, addressed the convention and stated that the YMCA is a part of American leadership.

He mentioned the forthcoming independence of his country, effective on July 4, asserting that the Philippines will take its place in the firmament of free nations.

Democratize Religion

That democracy must be practiced in religious organizations was stated in a talk by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

"The organizations of religion must not only preach democracy but reveal democracy in themselves. Ecclesiastical organizations based on autocracy are not designed to give effect to democracy."

Declaring that freedom was a privilege granted by the Creator, the Bishop warned that power is a trust held by man for the benefit of his followers.

School Supplies Music

At both sessions held on Friday music was supplied by the Bordentown, N.J. Industrial and Manual Training School's a cappella choir, under the direction of Charles Higgins.

Other speakers were:

Dean Thomas W. Graham, Graduate School of Theology, Oberlin College; Harper Sibley, international committeeman, YMCA; Kirtley F. Mather, professor of geology, Harvard University; Grove Patterson, president and editor of the Toledo Blade; J. L. Hromadka, Princeton Theological Seminary and chairman of Student Work Committee, Czechoslovakia; an YMCA S. C. Leung, general secretary National YMCA Committee of China; A. Hugo Grassi, Uraguay, general secretary Continental Committee of YMCA's of South America; Justice Roy L. Kellock, Justice Supreme Court of Canada, lay leader Toronto YMCA; Tracy Strong, Geneva, Switzerland, general secretary World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations; Sgt. Ben Kuroki, Hershey, Neb., Japanese-American, DFC winner for combat missions against Japan; John M. Magwood, former major in Canadian Army; Edgar C. Record Jr., president of Dwight Hall, Yale University (YMCA); Max T. Ervin, Oberlin, convention song leader.

In Jersey City, the Central Atlantic area YMCA announced that Camp Wawayanda, at Andover, N. J., would, for the first time in the history of local Y camping, accept Negro members of the trustee board, Alexander Mar-campers regardless of race. Previously, all Negro applicants were automatically referred to segregated camp Osceola for accomodations.

3-27-46

YMCA begins to keep its promise of no more Jim Crow

There were indications this week from Cleveland, O., and Jersey City, N.J., that the Young Men's Christian Association last month at its 45th North American convention meant to keep the promises it made at Atlantic City, N. J.

The Cleveland YMCA last week became one of the first branches in the country to take positive action on the recommendations for "full integration" voted at the conference. It voted to wipe out every vestige of discrimination from the local Y program and offered membership privileges to Negro men in any conveniently located branch of the association, including the Central branch downtown, hitherto lily-white.

Dr. C. V. Thomas, Cleveland branch general secretary, asked for "no fanfare", pointing out that prejudices and long established mores could not be completely wiped out through legislation or resolutions. He added, however, that the executive committee, which endorsed the move for some time, was overwhelmingly in favor of giving it a trial. He also said that the membership in total would not anticipate any serious trouble in making the new policy might befull democracy." Dr. Thomas added, "but we do not apply for membership at the Central branch tomorrow, he would be accepted."

Much of the credit for the pledge was given the two Negro members of the Y programs considerable need for speedy adoption of much of the trustee board, Alexander Mar-tin, local attorney, and the Rev. Wade H. McKinney, who is also a Negro should the only Negro member of the executive committee.

3-27-46

Dr. Channing Tobias Given Testimonial by YMCA Secretaries Upon Retirement

Tribute Paid Former Senior Executive, Now Director of Phelps-Stokes Fund

NEW YORK — A testimonial reception honoring Dr. Channing H. Tobias upon his retirement as senior YMCA secretary was given by the National Laymen's Conference and the Secretaries' Study Institute of the Chesapeake Summer School Association at the Harlem Branch last week.

Many New York and out-of-town leaders were present to honor the new director of the Phelps Stokes Fund who will leave for West Africa, May 29, and also to attend the West Central Africa Regional Missionary Conference.

Pays Tribute to Wife

Dr. Tobias paid tribute to all the people in the YMCA who worked with him during his 35 years of service; and particularly to his wife, who was present.

While in Africa, Dr. Tobias said, he is going to keep a "keen eye out" for possibilities of establishing YMCA posts in Nigeria, Liberia, the Gold Coast and the Congo.

Positive Approach Cited

Judge Hubert T. Delany, chairman, board of managers, Harlem Branch YMCA, pointed out that Dr. Tobias fought subversive people and activities by making "democracy and Christianity a true reality."

General secretary of the International Committee YMCA, Dr. Eugene E. Barnett, told the gathering that Georgia has two distinctions: one, that Dr. Tobias was born there; and the other, that a recent primary election took place in his home town.

"Dr. Tobias is a major prophet of our times," he stated. "He is like a prophet of Israel, who not only was a prognosticator of the future but concerned himself with the social, economic and political problems of the day."

Music of America

Following presentation of excerpts from "Porgy and Bess" by USO Camp Shows, under direction of Miss Judy Latimer, Dr. Tobias pointed out that operas like "Porgy and Bess" and "Showboat" are best expressions of true American life.

Gifts Presented Couple

Other speakers were Dr. Leslie Pinkney Hill, president, Cheyney State Teachers' College, Pa.; and Warren R. Cochrane, director, Secretaries' Study Institute, who presented a special gift to Dr. and Mrs. Tobias.

Gifts were also presented to two office workers on Dr. Tobias's staff. Presiding was Dr. W. R. Valentine, chairman, National Laymen's Conference and Chesapeake Summer School Association.

Among the guests present were: F:gv dm, ,rred moar hoar mo Bishop Willis King, Monrovia, Liberia; Dr. and Mrs. David R. Porter, Washington; Dr. A. O. Reid, Baltimore; William R. Jackson, Newark; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carter, Capahosie, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McGrew, Philadelphia; Mrs. E. Finch Morris, Philadelphia; W. H. Kindle, Baltimore; Milton H. Washington, Philadelphia; Harold Pilgrim, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Cain, Philadelphia; Moses Jackson, Trenton, N.J.; Mrs. Hubert T. Delany, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Alexander, Robert B. DeFrantz, Thomas B. Dyett, Lemuel L. Foster, executive secretary of R. H. Macy and Co.; and Mr. and Mrs. William Dean, son-in-law and daughter of Dr. Tobias, all of New York City.

Honor Tobias, Retiring YMCA Official, At Dinner

NEW YORK—Dr. Channing H. Tobias who retires this month as secretary of the interracial services of the national council of the YMCA was honored this week at a dinner sponsored by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare at the Roosevelt Hotel.

Co-chairman of the New York Committee of the Southern Conference, Dr. Tobias will become director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund which sponsors work in Negro education and race relations in Africa and the United States.

Dr. Tobias expressed his faith in the Southern Conference which he described as a "movement indigenous to the South that addresses itself to the basic problems affecting the welfare of all people."

He said that "ignorance, poverty and disease are found on both sides of the color line and are accentuated because of it."

An effective attack on the color line, Tobias said, will be to bring together thoughtful Negroes and whites of the South in a united effort to eradicate pressing evils.

Mrs. John Hammond Jr. presented Dr. Tobias with a plaque "for his selfless devotion to the cause of interracial understanding and good will."

Other speakers were Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina and honorary president of the Southern Conference; Dr. Clark Foreman, grandson of the founder of the Atlanta Constitution; Judge Hubert Delany, Lester Granger of the Urban League; Dr. Max Yergan, Walter White of the NAACP; and Dr. Eugene E. Barnett.

Colored Boy Day Camp Opens In City Tuesday

The Dearborn St. colored Y.M.C.A. will open a day camp for boys, from 9-14, Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. It will extend through Monday, Sept. 9.

This is the first colored day camp program for boys to be initiated here. It will include art and handicraft, sightseeing tours, swimming, outdoor cooking, and athletics.

The program will be open to all colored boys in the specified age group but will be limited to the first 30 to register. The registration fee is $3, which is designed to take care of the food service.

RALEIGH NEGRO YMCA TO EXTEND SERVICES

To Sponsor Clubs and to Permit Groups Use of Building for Meetings

The Bloodworth Street Branch YMCA has planned an extensive program of services to members and the community, it was announced by E. L. Raiford, executive secretary, after a meeting of the board of management.

According to plans, local organizations were invited to use the facility for meetings and other activities provided clearance is obtained before hand to prevent conflict.

In line with policies now in effect in YMCA's, women and girls will be invited to serve as senior and junior hostesses and a full schedule of co-ed activities will be arranged.

Clubs for the various age groups will be sponsored, including Gra-Y and Hi-Y for grammar and high school boys respectively; Phalanx Fraternity for young men; Y's Men Club for older men; and Junior Hostess Club for young women. Special interest groups in photography, checkers, bridge, dramatics and music also have been planned.

Educational features to be sponsored include arts and crafts; forums, lecture series, lending library and reading room; religious features, including Bible classes and vesper services; social features, including dances, parties, bridge and whist games and tournaments, movies, recreational features, including bowling, table tennis, checkers, chess, horse shoes, dominoes, hiking trips, camping, swimming classes and volley ball.

Three Negro Boys Seek 'Mayor Of Roanoke' Post

Having completed preparation of platforms for a campaign to elect the honorary "Boy Mayor of Roanoke," three Roanoke Negro youths will present those platforms at the regular meeting of the Roanoke Civic league at the William Hunton YMCA tomorrow night at 8 o'clock. Actual voting will take place December 17.

Sponsored by Two

The election is being sponsored by the William Hunton YMCA in cooperation with the Phalanx fraternity.

Representing three sections of the city in the contest designed to arouse civic interest among the youth of Roanoke and to encourage citizenship training in a practical way are Robert Bailey, III, Charles Perry and Leon Hooper.

Precincts will be set up at the Mt. Zion Baptist church, the Hunton Y and the Jerusalem Baptist church.

Bailey, 16, is representing the Northwest section. A member of the Ninth Avenue Christian church. He is a senior at Addison high school and president of the Hi-Y club as well as active in civic affairs. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey, 820 Loudon Avenue, N. W. His campaign managers are James Irving, chairman, Kier Gilbert March and Ira J. Wormack.

Perry, who is only 14, represents the Southwest section and is a sophomore at Addison. He is a member of the Jerusalem Baptist church. His campaign managers are the Rev. William R. Rollians, chairman, Raymond Iseley and Bennie Reynolds. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Perry, 104 15th street, N. W.

Leon Hooper, candidate for the Northwest section, is a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist church and was a graduate of Addison high school this year. He is still a member of the Addison band and "Dukes of Swing," a boys orchestra at the YMCA. He is the son of Robert Hooper and lives at 64 Lynchburg Avenue, N. E. Campaign chairman is J. Russell Board, assisted by Charles Meadows and O. H. Gray.

Y. Hutsona is serving as director of the entire campaign and is being assisted by Lawrence G. Pullens, E. P. Nabors, R. E. Lawson, and G. P. Lawson.

Chicago Y Secretary to Teach Indian Lads

NEW YORK — Lawrence C. Burr, formerly attached to the Wabash Avenue YMCA, Chicago, sailed from here on Oct. 4 for a YMCA World Service post in the province of Madras to teach boys' work techniques among Indian lads.

Burr, first colored secretary in YMCA history ever to be assigned to work in India's provinces by the YMCA International Committee, will remain there at least five years. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Mildred Burr, a former teacher and social worker.

In an interview Burr said, "The idea of going abroad as an educational worker struck me in my teen-age years. As a result I shaped my entire educational program along lines designed to guide me into such a field."

American Negro Defender Joins YMCA Staff In India Area

MADRAS, India—Lawrence C. Burr, member of the International Committee of YMCAs in North America and ANP correspondent, arrived here recently from New York City to join the YMCA National Council of India, Burma and Ceylon as a specialist in YMCA boys' work.

Accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Mildred C. Burr, the Americans, who arrived by plane, were welcomed by G. Soloman, general secretary of the Madras YMCA.

"On behalf of the YMCA," Soloman said, "I take this opportunity to welcome you to India. For many months we have anticipated your arrival. We are especially happy that an American Negro secretary answered our invitation and hope you will feel at home in India."

Later, Mr. Santwan, general secretary of the Indian National Council, invited Mr. and Mrs. Burr to spend a month in Calcutta as guests of his office before plunging into the tremendous task of building a national work program for boys in the YMCA.

Burr expects to remain in the India, Burma, Ceylon area during the next five years working among teen-age boys under supervision of the YMCA. He is former community secretary of the Wabash Avenue YMCA in Chicago, and has worked with the Chicago Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare.